

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 4, 2011
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 7, 2011

SENATE BILL

No. 699

Introduced by Senator Runner

February 18, 2011

An act to amend Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupil instruction.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 699, as amended, Runner. Pupil instruction: graduation requirements: pupil in foster care.

Existing law requires a pupil to complete specified courses while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school. Existing law authorizes the governing board of a school district to adopt rules specifying additional coursework requirements. Existing law also provides that a school district shall exempt a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the *school* district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements for graduation if the pupil, while he or she is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the *school* district from another school district or between high schools within the *school* district, unless the *school* district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school while he or she remains eligible for foster care benefits.

This bill would instead provide that a school district shall exempt a pupil from all coursework and other requirements adopted by the governing board of the *school* district that are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements for graduation if the pupil transfers between

schools while he or she is in grade 11 or 12 and in foster care, unless the *school* district makes a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time to graduate from high school ~~by the end of the school year during which the pupil reaches his or her 18th birthday~~ *at the completion of the pupil's fourth year of high school attendance*, or unless the adult holding the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, or the pupil, decides that exempting the pupil is not in the pupil's best interest. The bill also would require a school district to notify a pupil who transfers between schools while he or she is in grade 11 or 12 and in foster care whether or not he or she qualifies for an exemption within 30 days of transferring.

By requiring school districts to perform additional duties in complying with the exemption requirement, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is
- 2 amended to read:
- 3 51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while
- 4 in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of
- 5 graduation from high school:
- 6 (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects
- 7 specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless
- 8 otherwise specified:
- 9 (A) Three courses in English.
- 10 (B) Two courses in mathematics.
- 11 (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical
- 12 sciences.
- 13 (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States
- 14 history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a

1 one-semester course in American government and civics; and a
2 one-semester course in economics.

3 (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language.
4 For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this
5 subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be
6 deemed a course in foreign language.

7 (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been
8 exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

9 (2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing
10 board of the school district.

11 (b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,
12 administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means
13 for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may
14 include practical demonstration of skills and competencies,
15 supervised work experience or other outside school experience,
16 career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses
17 offered by regional occupational centers or programs,
18 interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a
19 postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and
20 specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course
21 of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

22 (c) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school
23 district shall exempt a pupil from all coursework and other
24 requirements adopted by the governing board of the district that
25 are in addition to the statewide coursework requirements specified
26 in this section if the pupil transfers between schools while he or
27 she is in grade 11 or 12 and in foster care unless the district makes
28 a finding that the pupil is reasonably able to complete the
29 requirements in time to graduate from high school ~~by the end of~~
30 ~~the school year during which the pupil reaches his or her 18th~~
31 ~~birthday~~ *school at the completion of the pupil's fourth year of high*
32 *school attendance.* If the adult holding the right to make
33 educational decisions for the pupil decides at any time or if the
34 pupil decides at any time that it is not in the pupil's best interest
35 to be exempted from local graduation requirements, the pupil shall
36 not be exempted from those requirements.

37 (2) A school district shall notify a pupil who transfers between
38 schools while he or she is in grade 11 or 12 and in foster care and,
39 as appropriate, the person holding the right to make educational
40 decisions for the pupil, whether or not the pupil qualifies for an

1 exemption pursuant to this subdivision. The school district shall
2 make the notification within 30 days of the pupil transferring.

3 (3) If a pupil transfers between schools while he or she is in
4 grade 11 or 12 and in foster care and has not been exempted
5 pursuant to this subdivision, a school district may so exempt the
6 pupil, at any time, if the criteria set forth in this subdivision are
7 satisfied.

8 (4) If a pupil transfers between schools while he or she is in
9 grade 11 or 12 and in foster care and is exempted from local
10 graduation requirements pursuant to this subdivision, the school
11 district shall notify the pupil and, as appropriate, the person holding
12 the right to make educational decisions for the pupil, whether any
13 of the requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability
14 to gain admission to a postsecondary educational institution and
15 shall provide information about transfer opportunities available
16 through the California Community Colleges.

17 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
18 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
19 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
20 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
21 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.